**Handing over FCI godowns to private sector**

2665. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hand over the existing godowns of FCI to the private sector to improve its overall working in the era of privatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the storage facilities and capacities of the godowns of FCI in each State, in general and Tamil Nadu, in particular, are adequate to take care of the foodgrains stock;

(d) if to, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) to (e) At present FCI has a total storage capacity of 35.65 million tonnes (owned *A* HircdCovcrcd and Covered and Plinth) against the total stocks of 30.00 millions tonnes all over the country (as on 28.2.2002).

In Tamil Nadu, FCI has a total storage capacity of 10.82 lakh tonnes (9.65 lakh tonnes Covered and 1.26 lakh tonnes Covered and Plinth against the total stocks of 10.76 lakh tonnes (9.56 lakh tonnes covered and 1.20 lakh tonnes Covered and Plinth) as 28.2.2002.